



Alabama Fatherhood Initiative (AFI) Quarterly Newsletter – Winter 2003

Child Support Guidelines

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Advisory Committee on Child Support Guidelines and Enforcement, a committee formed by the Alabama Supreme Court to advise the Court on matters relating to the Child Support Guidelines, is currently reviewing the Guidelines to determine if it wishes to make any recommendations for changes. The Administrative Office of Courts released a Request for Proposals in December to select a company to do the financial study. Policy Studies Incorporated (PSI) has been selected to do this study.

PSI has been asked to: evaluate the changes in the Consumer Price Index; evaluate changes in federal and state tax laws; realign national figures to take into account that income for families in Alabama is below the national average; evaluate and update the self-support reserve; include an updated discussion on child-rearing costs; do an analysis on how other states factor in shared parenting time in the calculation of child support guidelines and analyze how other states consider additional dependents, in multiple families, especially when these families live in more than one court jurisdiction.

Public hearings will be held in Montgomery at the State Judicial Building, 300 Dexter Avenue on March 10th and 11th. Persons wishing to appear before the Advisory Committee to make comments or suggestions in person will be required to limit their comments to ten minutes and must to submit a written copy of their comments. Individuals wishing to speak must submit a written request no later than March 5, 2004 to: Child Support Guidelines Public Hearing, c/o Alex Jackson, Esq., Supreme Court Clerk's Office, 300 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104-3741. The written request must include the following information: the name of the party wishing to appear and speak before the Advisory Committee; the mailing address of the speaker; the telephone number where the speaker may be reached during normal business hours; and the name of any organization the speaker represents.

Calhoun Community College and H. Council Trenholm State Technical College launch short-term skills training pilot projects during February 2004.

These institutions partnered with local child support courts, careerlinks, county departments of human resources, fatherhood programs, and other organizations to develop AFI programs to assist underemployed and unemployed non-custodial parents with short term skills training and employment opportunities in order to financially support their children. Trenholm implemented the AFI pilot program on February 3 at the Patterson Conference Center. Calhoun CC kicked off the AFI pilot program on February 27 at Calhoun CC Aerospace Training Center. Gadsden State CC, Gadsden State CC – Ayers Campus, Northwest Shoals CC, and Southern Union CC are other institutions in the Alabama College System with AFI pilot programs.

AFI Short term Skills Training Programs Yield Positive Results for Responsible Fathers!

The Alabama Fatherhood Initiative of Lauderdale County is pleased to announce that an AFI non-custodial father received two skills training scholarships. He received the Northwest-Shoals Community College Foundation Scholarship for a five hour course in the amount of \$420.00 and a Northwest-Shoals Community College Presidential Scholarship for a 2 hour course in the amount of \$168.00 for a total of seven credit hours. He is pursuing a career as a Machine Tool Operator.

The Alabama Fatherhood Initiative of Etowah County assisted a former inmate who was ordered into short-term skills training by two different courts. He is nearing the end of Machine Tool training with employment lined up and waiting! He will work 2nd shift as a lathe operator to pay child support and pursue a two-year degree in Nursing. He has been approved for financial aid to attend nursing classes at Gadsden State CC beginning in the fall 2004.

The Alabama Fatherhood Resource Directory is on the Web! The Directory is located at http://www.dhr.state.al.us/large_docs/Fatherhood%20Directory.pdf. Please print and share the Directory with others. The AFI is proud of the many services available to non-custodial fathers throughout Alabama!

